



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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January 14, 2004

TO: Washington State Board of Health
FROM: Don Sloma, Executive Director
RE: **THE FOUNDATION FOR EARLY LEARNING**

Background and Summary

The Foundation for Early Learning (<http://www.earlylearning.org>) was created in 2000 as a result of the work the Governor's Commission on Early Learning. The Commission recommended that a public charitable foundation be created to promote the development of effective early learning systems in Washington. The Foundation accomplishes this by providing strategic grants to local and statewide programs such as in-hospital visitation to establish a link with parents early in their child's development. To engender broad support for this work, the Foundation has led a variety of efforts including the Early Care and Education Coalition (EC2 www.earlyeducationcoalition.org) which is a public engagement effort that raises awareness of the significance of early childhood development and promotes availability of high-quality preschool and early childhood services. To carry out this work the foundation also convenes and encourages cross-sector collaborations in support of services and policy impacting the healthy development of young children.

Garrison Kurtz, Director of Programs for the Foundation for Early Learning, is with us today to highlight some efforts that connect the Foundation with current priorities of the State Board of Health. For more information current Foundation grants, visit <http://www.earlylearning.org/programs/recentgrants.html>

Recommended Board Action

None, however the Board may wish to consider Mr. Kurtz testimony as it considers approval of its "Sense of the Board" on legislative issues or as it considers other relevant matters.